President’s Report
Andrea Goldsmith

IT Society Annual BOG Meeting
June 28, 2009
COEX
Seoul, Korea
Executive Summary

- State of the society is excellent
  - Society functioning well with many vibrant initiatives
  - Finances in good shape with money to spend this year
  - ITTrans, ISITs, ITWs highly successful
- Many critical votes at today’s meeting
  - BoG and Officer candidates
  - IT Paper Award
  - Proposed AEs
  - 2010 ITW proposal
- Have reserved “New Business” agenda item to discuss society governance and committee structure
State of the Society

- Healthy financial outlook and reserves
- Transactions highly prestigious
  - Progress on publication delays: metrics; more AEs; moving to MC
- Symposium/workshops this year highly successful so far
  - Agenda item for discussion on nature/fees/venues
- New website a leap forward which is heavily utilized
- New committees very active and engaging more members
  - New initiatives: Distinguished Lecturer and Mentoring
- Members frequently honored for their work
- Membership steady with increase in students
- Chapters vibrant and growing
  - New chapters in New Zealand and Chengdu, China
Appointed Officer Candidates

- BoG consists of 18 elected members, 5 elected and 2 appointed officers, and the Pubs Committee Chair.
- Secretary João Barros’ term ends after ISIT; we are indebted to him for his outstanding service.
- As per the bylaws, officers have selected Aria Nosratinia as new Secretary subject to BoG approval (bio on website)
- **BoG Vote: Approval of Aria Nosratinia as Society Secretary**
- Treasurer Anant Sahai’s term ends in Dec.’09; we are indebted to him for his outstanding service, especially this difficult fiscal year. Will have soft handoff to new Treasurer.
- As per the bylaws, officers have selected Nihar Jindal as new Treasurer subject to BoG approval (bio on website)
- **BoG Vote: Approval of Nihar Jindal as Society Treasurer**
BoG Candidates

- At the annual meeting the BoG approves the slate of BoG candidates for the following year put forth by the Nomination and Appointments Committee and solicits additional nominations for BoG candidates.

- **BoG Vote:** Approval of BoG candidate slate from N/A Committee (bios emailed and on website)

- Additional BoG candidates can be nominated by a BoG member if endorsed by 5 additional BoG members

- **Nominations:** Additional BoG Nominations
Officer Candidates for 2010

- At the annual meeting the BoG nominates candidates for President, 1\textsuperscript{st} VP, and 2\textsuperscript{nd} VP for the following year.
- Elections for the nominated candidates will be held after the annual meeting.

- **Nominations:** President
- **Nominations:** 1\textsuperscript{st} VP
- **Nominations:** 2\textsuperscript{nd} VP
Society Governance

• Our society governance has changed over the last few years.
  • Before decisions and oversight was done by the BoG
    • Society hierarchy was relatively flat.
    • Shannon, Wyner, Awards, Membership/Chapters and Publications Committees operated independently, included officers as ex-officio members, and often require BoG votes to approve decisions.
  • Recently decisions and oversight have shifted to committees
    • The conference committee reviews budgets, provides support to organizers, and plans out conferences/workshops years in advance
    • Many new committees recently formed: Online, Student, and Outreach
  • Officer oversight of committee operations important
    • At CISS, made officers ex-officio members of all committees
    • President and 1st VP joined the Conference Committee (the Treasurer was already an ex-officio member) and the Online Committee
    • 2nd VP joined the Student and Outreach Committees.
Conf. Committee Chair on BoG

- Publications and Conference Committees oversee most visible and financially-important activities
- Pubs Committee Chair is ex-officio BoG member
- Given responsibility/impact, Officers recommend CC Chair become an ex-officio BoG member
- Discussed at CISS BoG meeting and via email
  - Argument in Favor: Impact of the CC on society and its finances; responsibility/trust placed in the CC Chair.
  - Argument against: Concern about dilution of elected-member BoG Additional suggestions related to this
  - Broader governance issues discussed in “New Business”
- **BoG Vote:** Approve CC Chair as ex-officio BoG Member
Larger Governance Issues

- Is the composition of the BoG and committee structure working well for the society?

- Is there room for improvement?

- How might BoG members get more involved in society governance, either via participation on committees or in other ways?

- These questions will be put forward for discussion during the “New Business” agenda item.
Financial Snapshot

- Estimated $114K budget surplus this year
  - Could safely spend $60-$100K on new initiatives this year
- Reserves
  - IEEE lost $1.2M of our reserves, now@$1.8M (~2006 levels)
  - Reserve spending restricted by IEEE due to overall loss
  - Market recovery should result in increase in our reserves, IEEE reserves, and thus some flexibility in reserve spending
- Risks
  - Reduced Xplore income (~120K) due to a new formula
  - Potential library subscription reductions
  - May put current spending levels and spending for new initiatives at risk. More in Anant’s report.
Reducing Sub-to-Pub Time

- Our Transactions have unacceptably long delays
- Provides poor member service, hurts timeliness of publication, impacts tenure decisions for authors
- My biggest initiative this year is to reduce sub-to-pub time without compromising quality

Significant Progress

- Metrics presented at CISS BoG meeting
- Number of AEs being increased to reduce overall load
- Decision to move from Pareja to Manuscript Central, transition in place.
- Publications Committee report will have more details
Awards

- **Awards to be announced this week:**
  - Shannon Award, Wyner Service Award, ITSoc Paper Award, ISIT Student Paper Award, and Chapter of the Year Award.

- **New Processes**
  - Open call for Shannon Award nominations (6 received + internal ones)
  - ITSoc/Comsoc Paper Award deliberations reduced from 2 tiers to 1 tier
  - More proactive solicitation of nominations for paper awards successful

- **New Awards**
  - Baker Prize reinstatement approved by IEEE TAB Awards and Recognition Committee. May be reinstated as soon as next year.
  - Society nominating for the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award in Communications and Information Technology.
    - Our nominee last year, Jacob Ziv, was the winner of this award.
    - The number of nominations for this award is very small – encourage your institutions to nominate.
Next BoG Meeting

- The last 2009 BoG meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 11, 2-6pm in Taormina, Sicily.

- Could hold it later in the week, e.g. Tuesday Oct 13 5:30-9:30pm.

- Straw poll on time/location for Sicily BoG meeting
I welcome your input and ideas